



United States Department of State
*Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*
Washington, D.C. 20520

January 24, 2013

Mr. Marco Gonzalez
Executive Secretary
Ozone Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

Consistent with provisions of the Montreal Protocol and of Decision IX/6 of the Parties, the United States submits the enclosed nomination for a methyl bromide critical use exemption (CUE) in 2015. This nomination is intended for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their Twenty Fifth meeting in 2013. The enclosed document includes separate chapters that describe each of the three sectors for which the United States is making a nomination: California strawberries, dates, and dry cured pork products. We hope that this organization provides the information in the most accessible manner to facilitate the efforts of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) during their review.

We also wish to ensure MBTOC is aware that tolerances related to sulfuryl fluoride are under consideration in the United States, and we are keeping that under close review as that process moves forward. Consistent with past practice, the U.S. critical use nomination is based on available alternatives that are viable at the time of the nomination. We would revisit the U.S. Government's decision not to nominate certain sectors should the registration status of sulfuryl fluoride in the United States change significantly.

We appreciate your consideration of this application, and look forward to working with you and others to answer any questions that may arise during the review process. Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John E. Thompson".

John Thompson
Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Policy